

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 22, 2001

LB 246, 389, 831

clear or perhaps not specified. If there's a contract carrier providing services, telecommunications services, they, just like the other telecommunications carriers, would be subject to the Universal Service Fund charge or surcharge. The other clarification in this amendment, and I...and this truly is clarification, while there are no carriers with a permit for contract carrying from the commission currently, we added language to ensure that any future, future contract telecommunications carriers would comply with the Universal Service Fund surcharge and provisions. The third part of this amendment includes the provisions of LB 831. And this is a bill which is basically a bill to conform our statutes to some changes in the federal regulations with respect to slamming. This would comply, would bring Nebraska law into compliance with changes in the federal law. It basically updates the statutes. It includes a couple of things that are provided for in the federal law, as well, and that is, for example, if you have an AT & T come in and buy out MCI or something, and MCI happens to be your long distance carrier, so you become a customer of AT & T because of that acquisition, that is not considered to be slamming. Now if that acquisition didn't occur and you were changed, of course, that's the essence of slamming, from MCI to AT & T without your permission, that is what Slamming Prevention Act is all about. The other thing that LB 831 did was to provide that nothing in our Slamming Prevention Act that we enacted a couple of years ago would prevent a subscriber from resolving an unauthorized change in their service directly with the telecommunications company. And if they're not satisfied with that resolution from the company, they may still file a complaint with the commission and the commission then would take the necessary steps to try to resolve it. Finally, the amendment incorporates, and LB 831 had no opposition in committee and had all committee members unanimously supporting it, LB 246 is also in this amendment. And that is a very simple bill that again had no opposition, was unanimously supported, which allows the commission to send their annual report, telecommunications report, to the Legislature electronically as well as updating the requirements for that report. This will save some money. Right now it takes some money to print and prepare about 500 printed copies of this 75-page annual report so this would allow them to furnish that report electronically.